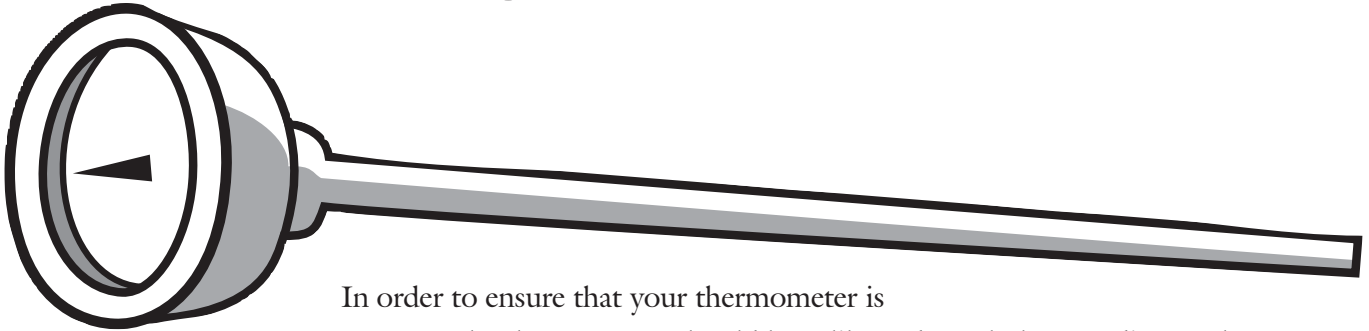# How to **CALIBRATE** a Metal Stem Thermometer

In order to ensure that your thermometer is accurate, the thermometer should be calibrated regularly according to the manufacturer's recommendations and after an extreme temperature change or if the unit has been dropped. Thermometers may be calibrated by the **ice point method** or the **boiling point method.**

Ice Point Method

1. Fill an insulated container (such as a foam cup) full of potable crushed ice.
2. Add cold water.
3. Allow time for the mixture to come to 32°F (about 4-5 minutes).
4. Insert a metal stem thermometer into the center of the cup. Make sure the stem of the thermometer is away from the bottom and sides of the container.
5. Hold the thermometer until the temperature stabilizes (the needle will stop moving), then record the temperature.
6. Repeat two times to verify the temperature reading.
7. If the temperature is not 32°F, use pliers on the calibration nut under the top of the thermometer to adjust the temperature to 32°F.
8. Repeat the procedure to verify results and calibrate as necessary.

Boiling Point Method

1. Submerge the sensor into boiling water. For a bi-metallic stemmed thermometer, wait until the needle stops moving then use a small wrench to turn the calibration nut until the thermometer reads 212°F.

For more information contact

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510009 INDD
October 2004